



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Housing and
Economic Development

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Baker-Polito Administration Announces MassWorks Infrastructure Award in Easthampton

Grant will fund intersection improvements on Route 10



EASTHAMPTON – Dec. 17, 2019 – Today, Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy joined Easthampton Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, Representative Daniel R. Carey, and other local leaders at bankESB to announce a \$394,000 MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant for Easthampton. The project will facilitate traffic improvements on Route 10, and enhance pedestrian access to the \$17 million River Valley Co-op development being built on the site of a former car dealership.

The MassWorks grant will fund roadway improvements at Lyman Street and Route 10 to increase traffic safety and connect pedestrians to existing commercial properties, as well as the proposed River Valley Co-op supermarket, the Easthampton Health Center and a recently opened Cumberland Farms. Specific improvements will include an auxiliary turn lane, sidewalks and curbing, a mid-block crossing, and the realignment of Lyman Street at Route 10 to form a T intersection.

“MassWorks is a valuable program that maximizes return on investment for capital funding, delivering vital infrastructure repairs that improve public safety while stimulating local and private development, job growth and housing production,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “We will continue to collaborate closely with local leaders to identify opportunities and target public resources toward the growth and wellbeing of communities across the Commonwealth.”

“As former municipal leaders, Governor Baker and I know firsthand the value of flexible grant programs like MassWorks, which help communities make targeted enhancements and provide opportunities for economic development,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “Today’s award will create a vital connection to commerce and health care for Easthampton residents and produce safer, more efficient roadways that will serve Easthampton well into the future.”

“This administration recognizes the importance of reliable, modern infrastructure to the safety and success of communities of all sizes,” **said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy**. “We are pleased to help Easthampton reinvigorate this underutilized property by making the infrastructure upgrades that will safely connect residents, visitors and employees to the planned River Valley Co-op and other local businesses.”

The River Valley Co-op site is located in a federally designated Opportunity Zone, and will include the 23,000 square-foot grocery store and a 200-space parking lot with solar-covered carports for the store's energy needs. This development is expected to generate 75 jobs initially, increasing to 100 jobs within five years. A large outdoor plaza with tables and seating will also be constructed. This plaza will extend to an abutting take-out restaurant, Captain Jack's Roadside Shack, and will serve as a shared dining area for both establishments.

"The River Valley Co-op project is a key piece of the puzzle in our City Master Plan. An investment in Easthampton's economy is a boon for the Pioneer Valley and the Commonwealth," **said Mayor Nicole LaChapelle**. "For the second year in a row, our colleagues at the state have affirmed this, and this new grant award reaffirms our shared commitment to the long-term success of Easthampton that benefits all of our residents. The River Valley Co-op project will revitalize a long-abandoned property and surrounding neighborhood while bringing new, local union jobs to the area."

"This MassWorks grant is very exciting for Easthampton. The funds from this grant will not only support the new building project but will benefit the entire community as safety and connectivity are improved in such a busy part of town," **said Representative Daniel R. Carey**.

Through the 2019 MassWorks round, the Baker-Polito Administration will award more than \$72 million in MassWorks awards to a diverse mix of 36 projects in 35 communities across the Commonwealth, including nine Gateway Cities and eight communities that will receive MassWorks funding for the first time. The awards will unlock a total of \$2.3 billion in private investment and more than 4,600 new full-time jobs, along with more than 3,100 new housing units, more than a third of which are affordable, building on the Administration's efforts to tackle the ongoing housing shortage through complementary programs like [historic funding for affordable housing](#) and the proposed [Housing Choice legislation](#). The transformative projects funded by the 2019 awards were selected from 92 applications, totaling \$223 million in requests.

Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has awarded more than \$456 million in MassWorks grants to support 219 shovel-ready projects in 141 communities.

MassWorks funding has leveraged over \$9.2B in private investments and made possible the creation of more than 14,000 new housing units and tens of thousands of construction and permanent jobs.

Governor Baker signed economic development legislation in August 2018 that included substantial new funding for municipalities, including another \$250 million for MassWorks awards. The legislation built on the Baker-Polito Administration's work to partner with communities to catalyze economic development and create new opportunities for residents across the Commonwealth, including the [2016 Job Creation and Workforce Development act](#), which authorized \$1 billion to support economic development efforts across the state, including a \$500 million authorization for the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, enhanced tools and the introduction of new strategies for job-readiness efforts.

Learn more about MassWorks [here](#).

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